

TURNER, Jim (Democrat)
Representative, 2d District, Texas
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Fort Lewis, Washington - 6 February 1946
Home: Crockett, Texas
Marital status: Married (Ginny) - 2 children
Religion: Baptist
Education: University of Texas at Austin, B.A., 1968; M.B.A. and J.D., 1971
Military: US Army, 1978; Capt
Profession: Lawyer

Political: Mayor, City of Crockett; Texas House, 1981-84; Texas Senate, 1991-96. Defeated Brian Babin (R) with 52.2% of the vote for the seat of Rep Charles Wilson (D), who resigned in Oct96. Reelected in 2000 with 91% of the vote. In 2002 received 61% of the vote in redrawn district.

Rep Turner is a moderate-to-conservative Democrat, member of the Blue Dog Coalition and the centrist New Democrat Coalition. In the 106th Congress, believed that the FY00 DoD Auth bill contained the best compensation package for the military since the early 1980's. Also noted that the bill would provide funding to develop and field effective theater and national missile defenses to counter rapidly evolving ballistic missile threats. Opposed attempts to cut-off funding for US operations in Bosnia. Added that having language that cuts off funding because Congress wants a supplemental bill in the future is the wrong approach to a very serious problem. Stated that one reason he wanted to be on the HASC was his commitment to supporting military personnel. Believed that "the men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving this nation should be our nation's top priority. Tanks and guns don't win war, people do." Urged the Sec/Army to give priority to funding construction of a Veterans' Home in East Texas. Cosponsored amdt to outlaw flag desecration. Expressed concern over reports that North Korea, Iran, Iraq are acquiring and developing ballistic missile systems at a much faster rate than earlier intelligence indicated. Hailed the Kosovo peace agreement which he said represents a defeat for Milosevic and a victory for the people of Kosovo and for the international negotiators of peace. Urged his colleagues to show full support for troops in Kosovo. During a HASC Readiness hearing, asked what military families thought about their quality of life, opening a floodgate of comments about inadequacies.

In the 107th Congress voiced support for a bill allowing Federal employees to keep frequent-flier miles they accumulate while traveling on government business. Supported the FY03 DoD auth which included funding for shipbuilding in Orange, PAC-3 missile construction in Lufkin, and environmental clean-up technology development at Sam Houston State U in Huntsville. Supported the Acquisition Streamlining Improvement Act which extends for two years simplified procedures for the purchase of commercial items up to \$5M in value. Favors paying down the debt and returning to a balanced budget rather than extending existing tax cuts. Strong supporter of E-Government Act of 2002 to enhance the management and promotion of electronic government services to the public.

Additional: Member of National Security Caucus, Military Veterans Caucus
AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Terrorism, Unconventional Threats & Capabilities
HOMELAND SECURITY